



The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

California Department of Toxic Substances Control
El Centro Field Office
627 Wake Ave.
El Centro, 92243

Thursday, June 16, 2011
2:00 PM

DRAFT Meeting Notes

- Welcome and Introductions.** New River Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair-Designee Daniel Garza (California Environmental Protection Agency), called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following committee members /designees/alternates: Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee), Antonio Ortega (Office of Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez), Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District), Roger Vintze (Department of Toxic Substances Control, Imperial County CUPA), Bart Chirstensen (State Water Resources Control Board), Carlos Angulo (California Environmental Protection Agency), Ema Rosa Silva (Vecinos de Calexico), Jeff Loux (UC Davis), Krista Sloniowski (UC Davis). Participating by phone: Rebecca Little Owl (International Water and Boundary Commission), Russell Bartlett (California Department of Public Health), Abid Khalaf (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), John McCaull (Consultant), Jon Ballard (US General Services Administration), Jeong-Hee Kim (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Robert Cardenas (International Boundary and Water Commission, Yuma Office), Luis Olmedo (Comite Civico). Special guests: Red Martinez (Regional Water Quality Control Board Member), Sue Laney, Deputy Director (Department of Toxic Substances Control).
- TAC Chair Update.** Chair-Designee Daniel Garza (California Environmental Protection Agency) welcomed all the members and informed them of the absence of Chair Ricardo Martinez (California Environmental Protection Agency) and Co-Chair Jose Angel (Colorado River Basin Regional water Quality Control Board) due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Strategic Plan Outline Update.** Jeff Loux (UC Davis) informed the TAC that he is going to be unavailable during the month of July, but Krista Sloniowski (UC Davis) and Gene Crumley (UC Davis) would be readily available in his absence. Krista reported that the bulk of the narrative for the Strategic Plan is coming together, but she still needs the Funding and Background workgroup report. She noted that the timetable approved by the TAC at the last meeting, will require the workgroups to submit their final reports by mid-July if they are still going to meet the deadlines.

4. **"Anonymous Interviews Summary."** Jeff Loux (UC Davis) asked the TAC members if they had any comments or suggestions from the TAC. Chair-Designee Daniel Garza (California Environmental Protection Agency) thanked the UC Davis team for the work and commended them on the final product of the summary. Jeff Loux noted that he thought the Summary should be included as an appendices in the final Strategic Plan. A discussion was held between the TAC, which it was agreed that the Summary would be included in the appendices.
5. **Criteria for Selecting/Narrowing Options.** Jeff Loux (UC Davis) went over the UC Davis team proposal for selecting/narrowing remediation options. There were no objections to the proposal put forth by the UC Davis team. Bart Christensen suggested that the criteria of "Ownership and Maintenance" be added to the matrix, to which the entire TAC agreed. Jeff asked that the TAC submit any additional comments or suggestions to Krista Sloniowski (UC Davis) by July 24, 2011.
6. **Progress Reports from Workgroups.**
 - a. **Impairments.** Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board) gave an update on the progress of the impairments workgroup report. Logan noted that Regional Board staff have gone through the impairments matrix and are "cleaning it up." Roger Vintze (Department of Toxic Substances Control) reported on the preliminary results of the sampling that was done on the New River river bed earlier in the year. Roger stressed that further testing of the samples is still being conducted and that he hoped to have DTSC staff prepare an analysis of the results for the TAC by mid-July.
 - b. **Remediation.** Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District). The workgroup is getting closer to completing their draft workgroup report. He noted that they are awaiting comments and suggestions from Co-Chair Jose Angel (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board) before they move forward. Steve also thanked the Regional Board staff for their assistance.
 - c. **Background and Funding.** Daniel Garza (Designee, California Environmental Protection Agency), reported that the workgroup had a productive call and that the report is progressing. John McCaull (Consultant, City of Calexico) reported that he is preparing a legal memo which he is hoping to prepare for the TAC members review by the next TAC meeting date. Bart Christensen (State Water Resources Control Board) added that the report should take a very close examination of Treaty Minute 256, which he feels needs to be further examined by the TAC.

- d. **Visioning.** Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee). Thanked the TAC members for their input on the draft workgroup report that was circulated after the previous TAC meeting. He informed the TAC that the workgroup is almost finished incorporating the changes and that the final version should be ready for submittal to the TAC by its next meeting. Miguel also informed the TAC that he is trying to arrange for a presentation to the TAC by the contractor hired by the City of Calexico to develop the "River Parkway" as stipulated by AB 1079 and the Federal legislation passed by Congressman Filner. Miguel noted that he hoped to have this presentation made at the next TAC meeting.

7. Revised Schedule For Next Three (3) Months.

- a. The following TAC meeting dates were approved by the TAC members present (unless otherwise denoted, all meeting dates will take place at the Department of Toxic Substances Control's El Centro Office):
 - July 7, 2011 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 - July 21, 2011 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 - For these two meetings ,it was agreed upon by the TAC that the focused would be on finalizing the Remediation/Alternatives Report.
 - August 18, 2011 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

8. Action Items for July 7, 2011 TAC Meeting

- a. The Funding and Background Workgroup will circulate their draft report to the TAC before the next meeting for comments and suggestions.
- b. TAC members agreed to finalize the date(s) for the New River Improvement Project Symposium at the July 7, 2011 meeting.
- c. The Remediation workgroup would prepare for the TAC a refined version of their matrix.
- d. TAC members to provide feedback to UC Davis on the proposed items covered earlier in the meeting no later than July 24, 2011.
- e. Next meeting July 7, 2011, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM (PST).